

# Concordia Parish



*"Over the years, it has become clear that individual health is closely linked to community health—the health of the community and environment in which individuals live, work, and play. Likewise, community health is profoundly affected by the collective beliefs, attitudes, and behaviors of everyone who lives in the community"*

**Healthy People 2010**

## Parish Health Profiles 2005 — Your Parish at a Glance

	Concordia	Louisiana	U.S.	HP 2010
<b>ECONOMICS, 2000</b>				
% All persons in poverty	29.1%	19.6%	12.4%	--
% Children under 18 in poverty	42.1%	26.6%	16.6%	--
% Unemployed 16 and over	9.9%	7.3%	5.8%	--
<b>EDUCATION 2002-2003</b>				
School Expenditure per Student	\$6,941	\$6,906	--	--
Student Attendance (average daily attendance as a % of the average number of students enrolled)	94.4%	93.5%	--	--
% High School Drop Outs (as a % of incoming 9th grade)	4.5%	7.0%	--	--
<b>MOTHERS AND CHILDREN, 2002</b>				
Infant mortality rate (per 1,000 births)	17.5	10.2	7.0	4.5
% Receiving prenatal care within first 3 months	76.0%	83.8%	83.7%	90.0%
% Receiving adequate prenatal care (modified Kessner)	58.5%	78.9%	76.2%	--
% Low birth weight	18.1%	10.5%	7.7%	5.0%
% Births to teens ages 15 - 19	18.2%	15.5%	10.6%	--
% Children fully immunized by 2 years old	--	69.8%	78.5%	90.0%
<b>INFECTIOUS DISEASES, 2003 (new cases - rate per 100,000 population)</b>				
Syphilis (primary and secondary)	--	4.1	2.5	0.2
Early Syphilis (primary, secondary and early latent)	NA	8.6	5.4	--
Chlamydia	558.1	469.8	304.3	3.0
Gonorrhea	271.6	265.6	116.2	19.0
Tuberculosis	0.0	5.8	5.1	1.0
<b>STATEWIDE LEADING CAUSES OF DEATH, 2002 (death rate per 100,000 population)</b>				
Heart	240.0	248.4	241.7	166.0
Cancer	250.0	209.7	193.2	159.9
Cerebrovascular Disease	**	57.4	56.4	48.0
Accidents	**	46.7	37.0	17.5
Diabetes	**	39.5	25.4	45.0
Chronic Lower Respiratory	**	37.8	43.3	--
<b>COMMUNITY SAFETY, 2003</b>				
Validated cases of child abuse/neglect (rate per 1,000 population)	21.5	10.9	12.4	10.3
Deaths caused by motor vehicle crashes (rate per 100 Million Vehicle Miles Traveled)	1.7	2.1	1.5	0.8
<b>HEALTH BEHAVIORS, 2004</b>				
	<b>Region 6</b>	<b>Louisiana</b>	<b>U.S.</b>	<b>HP 2010</b>
% Current cigarette smokers (adults 18+)	28.2%	23.5%	21.0%	12.0%
% Obese - BMI > 30 (adults 20+)	27.1%	27.0%	31.1%	15.0%
% Having a mammogram within 2 years (women 40+)	69.0%	74.3%	74.6%	70.0%
% Having a pap smear within 3 years (women 18+)	86.5%	85.2%	85.9%	90.0%
% Having a flu shot in past year (adults 65+)	67.5%	68.6%	67.9%	90.0%

### Data Sources:

Economics: U.S. Census 2000 Summary File 3 (SF 3) - Sample Data, 2000

Education: Louisiana Department of Education District-reported data submitted to the Student Information System (SIS) end-of-year (EOY) report and Profile of Educational Personnel (PEP) System. Office of Management and Finance, Division of Planning, Analysis and Information Resources. District Composite Report 2003-2004.

Mothers and Children: DHH/OPH, Louisiana State Center for Health Statistics, 2004 Louisiana Health Report Card and National Vital Statistics Reports, Vol. 53, No. 15, February 2005

Infectious Diseases: DHH/OPH, Sexually Transmitted Disease Program. 2004 and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, "Trends in Reportable Sexually Transmitted Disease in the United State, 2003". NA= Rate not available, # of cases is less than 5

Leading Causes of Death: DHH/OPH, Louisiana State Center for Health Statistics, 2004 Louisiana Health Report Card and National Vital Statistics Reports, Vol. 53, No. 15, February 2005 (\*\*Rates for counts less than 20 are unreliable and are not reported)

Community Safety: Child Abuse--Louisiana Department of Social Services, Office of Community Services, prepared by Prevent Child Abuse Louisiana and Motor Vehicle Deaths--EM S/Injury Research & Prevention Program

Healthy Behaviors: DHH/OPH, Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS), 2004

**History<sup>1, 2</sup>**

Concordia was founded January 6, 1810. Some claim that the first white man to visit Concordia was Hernando DeSoto in 1542. More than 100 years later, LaSalle conferred with the Tensas and Natchez Indian here. He called it “new paradise.” The actual settlement of the parish did not come until much later. The first land grant was made to Jose Vidal by Governor-General de Lemos, who called it “New Concordia.” Gayerre, a noted historian, claims the name was inspired by the amicable agreement of Concord arrived at by the Spaniard, Vidal, and the American authorities in Natchez for the mutual surrender of slaves.



Others say it was named for Concord, the magnificent residence built in Natchez by Gov. Gayoso de Lemos. The mansion has since burned, but the stories of the lavish entertainment of the era continue to live.

Concordia parish, situated on the Mississippi River across from Natchez, is a “Sportsman’s Paradise,” which includes Lake St. John and Lake Concordia, a trophy bass lake. Wild game is abundant in Three Rivers and Red River State Wildlife Management Areas, and Bayou Cocodrie National Refuge. Experience country living with agricultural tours; cotton gins, pecan, catfish, miniature horse and ostrich farms. Tacony Plantation, rich in African-American history, celebrates the Jim Bowie Festival each September.

**Parish Seat<sup>3</sup>** ..... Vidalia

**Major Cities** (population over 5,000)

- Vidalia

**Parish Population<sup>4</sup>**

2000.....	20,247
2003 (estimate) .....	19,730
2000 Population by Race	
White.....	60.7%
African-American .....	37.7%
Some other race.....	1.5%
Hispanic of Latino (of any race) .....	1.5%
2000 Population by Age	
Under 5 years .....	7.3%
5-14 .....	15.5%
15-17 .....	5.0%
18-19 .....	2.9%
20-24 .....	6.0%
25-64 .....	48.6%
65 & over .....	14.7%

**Geography and Statistics<sup>5</sup>**

Average elevation .....	65ft.
Land area in square miles .....	696
Water area in square miles .....	52.4

**Climate**

## Average temperatures

Annual .....	67°
January .....	43°
July .....	81°
Annual average rainfall .....	71.2 inches

**Labor Force (2001)<sup>6</sup>**

## Concordia Parish

Civilian.....	7,246
Employed .....	6,407
Unemployed.....	839
Unemployment.....	11.6%

## Louisiana

Civilian.....	2,055,000
Employed .....	1,956,500
Unemployed.....	98,500
Unemployment Rate .....	4.8%

**Colleges/Universities (within one hour commute)**

N/A

1. [Louisiana Almanac](#), 2002-2003 edition, Pelican Publishing Company, Gretna, LA. 2002.
2. Louisiana Office of Tourism. 1998. keywords: regional information  
<<http://www.crt.state.la.us/crt/tourism/>>.
3. [Louisiana Almanac](#), 2002-2003 edition, Pelican Publishing Company, Gretna, LA. 2002.
4. U.S. Census Bureau, Summary File 1 (SF 1) and Summary File 3 (SF 3) <<http://www.census.gov>>.
5. U.S. Census Bureau: State and County QuickFacts <<http://www.census.gov>>.
6. Louisiana Department of Labor, Civilian Labor Force Summary  
<[http://www.ldol.state.la.us/forms/lmi/CLF\\_Parishes\\_2000-Present.xls](http://www.ldol.state.la.us/forms/lmi/CLF_Parishes_2000-Present.xls)>.